(c) UCBs have been graded by Reserve Bank as under:—

Grade	2005	2006
Grade-I (Sound)	307	716
Grade-ll (Not so sound)	340	460
Grade-Ill (Weak)	497	407
Grade-IV(Sick)	228	270
TOTAL:	1872	1853

(d) As regards to Charminar, Vasavi and Prudential Banks the position is as under:—

(a) Charminar Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad—The depositors of the banks were-paid a total.amount of Rs. 158.32 crore. The bank is working under a scheme of reconstruction since March 3,2003. Apart from DICGC claim of the deposits of upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, the deposits above Rs. 1.00 lakh but upto Rs. 5.00 lakh will be repaid in 8 equal half-yearly instalments after a three years' moratorium period from the date of reconstruction scheme and two such instalments have been paid in March and September, 2006. For the depositors,above Rs. 5.00 lakh, they will be repaid in 8 equal half-yearly instalments after a 5 years moratorium.period.

(b) Vasavi Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad—An amount of Rs. 36.93 crore has been repaid to the depositors. The direction's by RBI were relaxed on November 8, 2006 and the bank is under process of repayment to the depositors.

(c) Prudential Cooperative Bank Ltd.,—The liquidator has submitted claim to DICGC on April 7, 2005.

Recommendations of Group of Ministers on infrastructure issues

2924. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned that the country's tourism

potential is not being realized and the .Prime Minister has set-up a Group of Ministers to tackle infrastructure issues;

(b) whether main obstacles at present are poor connectivity, lack of information, visa restrictions and accommodation; and

(c) if so, to what extent the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Group of Ministers (GoM) had been constituted in July, 2004.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Issues like augmenting air seat capacity, augmenting hotel accommodation, immigration problems and visa-on-arrival were discussed in the three meetings of the GoM held on 17th January, 2005,14th February, 2005 and 3rd March, 2005. While air seat capacity from a number of tourist generating markets has been substantially increased, there has not been significant progress on expansion of hotel room capacity, setting up of Immigration Facilitation Group at the international airports and introduction of visa-on-arrival facility, as recommended by the GoM.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has reviewed the tourism sector on 21st September, 2006 and it has now been decided that Tourism will be included under the National Infrastructure Committee chaired by the Prime Minister. The Committee will review the progress of infrastructure components of the Tourism sector.

Loans to farmers in Bihar

2925. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are providing loans @7 percent to farmers and if so, the number of farmers belonging to districts Motihari and Champaran, Bihar;

(b) whether ineligible farmers have also been given loan in violation of the laid down rules/norms; and

(c) whether any proposal to review all such loans given by Punjab National Bank, Pachpakrdi Branch and Central Bank of India and State Bank of India, Dhaka Block,. Bihar?